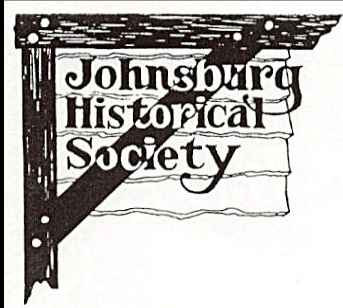


Johnsburg Historical Society

News

Celebrating Our 46th Year



Volume XIII

Number 1

Summer 2019

14th Edition

September and October Historical Happenings

History Days 2019

Johnsburg Historical Society, North Creek Railroad Depot Museum, and Gem Radio Theatre are collaborating to produce a weekend of back-to-back activities which will focus on the town's unique history. Save the dates: September 6, 7, and 8 at multiple locations throughout town.

Following last year's sellout Graveyard Walk, Gem Radio Theatre is planning a sequel "Dessert with the Dead" after a dramatic Graveyard Walk through North Creek's Union Cemetery adjacent to the North Creek Baptist Church. Tickets for the September 6 event will go on sale during the summer. Reservations are suggested.

Johnsburg Historical Society will be offering displays, newsletters, books for sale and a quilt raffle.

North Creek Railroad Depot Museum will host Open House at the Depot Museum and an exhibit at the Owens House at the railroad complex. Have your photo taken at the red caboose!

"Voice of the Mountains: Jeanne Robert Foster, an Adirondack Legacy"

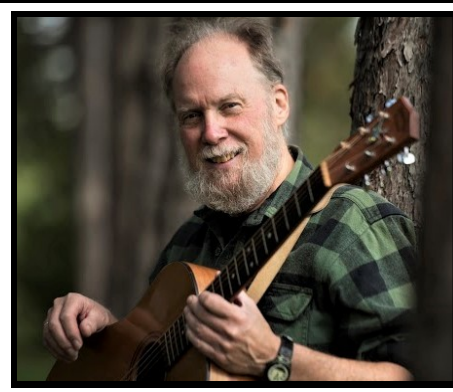
Eileen Egan Mack and Dan Berggren will perform this program as a duo on Saturday, October 5 at 7 p.m. at Tannery Pond Center in North Creek. These talented musicians have performed this show in many venues, but they say that they have a very special feeling about being able to do the show in the mountains, Jeanne's mountains, in North Creek.

Singer/ actress Eileen notes that she feels privileged to work with this talented man who makes sacred space wherever he goes. In Eileen's words, "It is a thrill to have a man's speaking voice, Dan's beautiful deep voice, brings life to Jeanne's words. His musicianship, voice and guitar, add a dimension of beauty that honors the woman and the Adirondacks."

A 6 p.m. reception in the lobby and a silent auction will precede the program. Tickets will go on sale soon.

For more information on Johnsburg History Days please check the local paper and these Web Sites...

www.northcreekdepotmuseum.com and www.johnsburghhistoricalsociety.com



Town of Johnsburg History Days ~ 2018

Eileen Egan Mack & Dan Berggren

Congratulations to the 2019 Graduates!

Local History Books Presented to Grads

Seven members of Johnsburg Historical Society presented books of local history to sixteen graduating seniors at Johnsburg Central School. The May 3 event at the school took place in the classroom of History teacher Mr. Matt Wells.

Each senior received a beautifully wrapped book, *Leaves Torn Asunder*, by acclaimed local author Glenn Pearsall. The books were purchased with funds from a generous grant donated by Stewart's Shops.

Michael and Suzie Anderson of Johnsborg Historical Society deserve many thanks for the meticulous wrapping and calligraphy on each bookplate. **(Graduation List On Page 3)**

"This project is made possible with funds from the Decentralization Program, a re-grant program of the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature and administered by the Lower Adirondack Regional Arts Council."

What's Inside?

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Johnsburg Historical Society 2019

Officers and Board Members

President Delbert Chambers
Vice President Michael Anderson
Secretary Teresa Brannon Haley
Treasurer Ellen Schaefer
Director Kathy Maiorana
Director Suzie Anderson
Director Donna Messerle

Office Manager ... Teresa Brannon Haley
Newsletter Editor ... Kathy Maiorana
Photography/Newsletter Layout ... David R. Braley
Town of Johnsburg Historian ... Deana Wood

Meetings: First Monday of the month at 3:00 p.m.
Wevertown Community Center

All are welcome to attend!

Mail correspondence or suggestions to JHS

JHS, P.O. Box 144, Wevertown, N.Y. 12886-0144

Phone: (518) 251-5788

Email: johnsburghhistory@gmail.com

Website: www.johnsburghhistoricalsociety.com

Johnsburg Historical Society
Proud Bearers Of the History of
The Town of Johnsburg

We Need Your Help!

Please help us to make our mailing list and database the most accurate it can be!

Send us an e-mail with your correct e-mail address, and any changes to your physical address. Send to:

johnsburghhistory@gmail.com

Thank you for helping us with this BIG ongoing project!



History Tea was presented by Gem Radio Theatre at Garnet Hill Lodge April 28 and May 5.

The JHS is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization dedicated to promoting, protecting and preserving the history of the Town of Johnsburg.

Presidents Letter



Greetings,

It's been a good year for JHS. A re-invigorated Board, increased community awareness and positive interaction with students through cooperation of school.

Larry Carr has passed on. He is remembered as a well-respected gentleman of the community and a valuable past member of our Board. An obit is here-in.

Also within these pages we report on the first ever Grave Yard Walk. It was such a resounding success that it will be held again this year.

Find too a report on our high school Seniors' book presentation. Of course we will continue that program.

Projects on the board include interpretative signage along the River Walk trail. Also signage in the proximity of the Putnam farm at Crane Mountain identifying the childhood home of Jeanne Robert Foster.

We expect a sold out crowd for a fund raiser program starring Eileen Egan Mack and Dan Berggren on October 5 at Tannery Pond Center.

Check into our web site for this year's recipient of our scholarship award.

Shout out to Coach Gene Maiorana for his wide ranging support from providing music at our December luncheon program to acting as liaison to high school students.

Be sure to follow us on johnsburghhistoricalsociety.com.

In your service,

Delbert Chambers
President, Johnsburg Historical Society

Grant News

Three generous grants have funded recent Johnsburg Historical Society programs.

A \$500 donation from Stewart's Shops enabled JHS to purchase books of local history which were gifted to 16 graduating 2019 seniors at Johnsburg Central School. The donation will provide books for the next graduating class of 2020 as well.

A Community Arts grant from Lower Adirondack Regional Arts Council (LARAC) has funded the Eileen Egan Mack/Dan Berggren musical event at Tannery Pond Center on October 5, 2019. The talented duo will present "Voice of the Mountains: Jeanne Robert Foster, an Adirondack Legacy," as a tribute to the beloved actress, poet, model, literary critic and boundary breaker.

An award of \$3,000 from the Warren County Occupancy Tax Fund is slated for Johnsburg Historical Society's Riverwalk Interpretive Sign Project. This award will fund two permanent signs which will include text and a pictorial denoting significant historical sites along the Hudson River from Tannery Pond Center to the North Creek Railroad Depot Museum. In a future project, additional signs will be installed along the Riverwalk.

JHS Living History Program Records Lives of Residents

The Living History Committee continues to have the privilege of listening to and recording our neighbors' stories, by turns sad, funny, dramatic and surprising. The DVDs are stored at JHS and at a backup location for safety.

Phyllis Putnam Montayne



Phyllis Putnam Montayne~2018

Born at home on the Putnam Farm on Garnet Lake Road, Phyllis Putnam Montayne attended the Garnet Lake one-room schoolhouse. Her teachers were Mrs. Helen Armstrong and Mrs. Pelletier. When her father sold the dairy farm, the family moved to Newcomb. Phyllis' father ran the Enos Putnam oil business, now known as Montayne Fuels, Inc., still run by Phyllis' family.

At the time Phyllis attended Newcomb High School, enrollment was 400. The mines were operating and the town was thriving.

Phyllis graduated from State University College at Oneonta, met her future husband at Hartwick College in Oneonta, and the couple settled back in Newcomb. In addition to raising her family of five children, Phyllis served as a school bus driver in Newcomb for 20 years.

The fiery abolitionist preacher, Enos Putnam, was Phyllis' great great grandfather. A long line of Enos Putnams is part of Phyllis' family history, including her father Enos O. Putnam, born 1909, died 1983, and is buried at Union Cemetery in North Creek.

Peggy Freebern



Peg Freebern and her first cousin, Sib Lawrence, shared memories of growing up in Wevertown and attending the one-room schoolhouse there. Among the teacher's duties was to make soup for the students every day at the pot belly stove. Tomato soup was served every Friday in deference to the Catholic students. The older boys would bring in the wood for the stove.

Peg and Sib recalled fond memories of frequent visits to Eldridge's Store to purchase ice cream, clothing, candy bars, and even a plain white slip. Eldridge's was located at the "four corners" of Wevertown, on what was called the North Creek Road, now Route 28. That piece of history, which later became the Pearsall Building, was lost in a recent fire which claimed the life of a young woman who lived in the apartment upstairs.

Kitty Priest's store in Wevertown was another favorite of Peg and Sib. The store burned December 11, 1950 on a bitterly cold day. Peg remembers seeing the frozen mustaches and eyebrows of the exhausted firemen.

Historians will be indebted to Peg for her painstaking record keeping of family genealogy. Her record of the Waddell family lineage has been entered into the Johnsburg Historical Society database. Lewis Waddell, beloved former Town Historian, was a first cousin. His love of history and intellectual rigor are reflected in Peg's records.

Society Snapshot Donna Messerle

New JHS Board Member, Donna Messerle



Many years of family vacations inspired my husband Paul and me to retire to the Adirondacks in North River. We moved here in 2000 and soon discovered that there was much to learn about the history and daily lives of the people who populated the area.

Although reading our copies of Adirondack Life gave us a lot of insight, I felt I needed to do much more to learn about my chosen home.

I joined the Johnsburg Historical Society in 2004, serving as Treasurer for 3 years, and enjoyed discovering and learning much about the town of Johnsburg and the surrounding communities.

It was revealed to me that the area has a rich history, and I remain enthused about learning more and preserving the information for future generations of residents and visitors.



Sibby Lawrence and Peggy Freebern ~ (Original Eldridge Sign)

(Continued from page 1)

Johnsburg Central School 2019 Graduates

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Ava Anderson | 9. William Fahey |
| 2. Connor Cavanagh | 10. Kassandra Johnson |
| 3. Dustin Dufrene | 11. Kenneth Mulvey |
| 4. Thomas Fuller | 12. Marianna Baker |
| 5. Makayla Millington | 13. Khaleah Cleveland |
| 6. Ryan Riedinger | 14. Austin Frasier |
| 7. Felicity Baker | 15. Kara LaBounty |
| 8. Courtney Cavanagh | 16. Mallory Pierson |

Larry Carr

Johnsburg Historical Society was privileged to have Larry Carr on our Board for many years, serving with professionalism and patience as Treasurer. Larry passed away on Easter Sunday peacefully at his home. He was 91.

In retirement Larry continued to teach by tutoring at the local schools. He volunteered at Johnsburg Library, North Country Ministry, and the Outreach Center. He served as treasurer of Johnsburg Historical Society, North Creek Railroad Depot Museum and the Bluegrass Society, and volunteered at the local nursing home. He loved Pat, his wife of 65 years, his family, his home and his community of North Creek. And he manifested that love by giving - never hesitating to pitch in at any organization that helped those in need.

We say goodbye to a remarkable man and a compassionate friend.

IN MEMORIAM

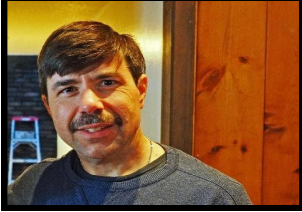
Johnsburg Historical Society notes with sadness the passing of friends and supporters of the organization:

Paula Bossert
Larry Carr
Don Greene
Audrey Masten
Paul Messerle

The Year In Review



The History Award, a scholarship of \$250 donated by Johnsbury Historical Society, was presented to graduate Liam Connelly at the Johnsbury Central School commencement ceremony June 2018.



At the annual JHS luncheon held December 10 at Inn on Gore Restaurant, guest speaker John Sasso offered an in-depth power point presentation. Sasso is an Adirondack historian, writer, Adirondack 46er and creator of the huge Facebook group, "History and Legends of the Adirondacks." He contributes to Adirondack Almanack, Adirondack PEEKS magazine, and the Adirondack Journal of Environmental Studies.



Last year's History Days culminated with a solo performance by Eileen Egan Mack as she portrayed beloved native daughter, poet Jeanne Robert Foster, September 16, 2018. This year Eileen will team with singer and guitarist Dan Berggren on October 5, 2019 at 7 p.m. at Tannery Pond Center for a repeat performance. See page 1 story for more details.



The hugely popular Graveyard Walk at Union Cemetery in North Creek last September will be repeated this year with new actors and new honorees.

Or Current Resident

Johnsbury Historical Society
P.O. Box 144
Weertown N.Y., 12886

